IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 23, line 4 and ending on page 24, line 12, with the following replacement paragraphs:

<Reagents and materials>

The reagents and materials employed in Examples and Referential Examples are;

a. antibody-binding resin wash liquid: 0.1M $NaHCO_3$-NaOH (pH 8.3) containing 0.5M NaCl;

b. antibody-binding resin eluent: 0.1M Glycine-HCl (pH 2.5);

c. antibody-binding resin neutralization liquid: 2M Tris-HCl (pH 8.0);

d. ELISA plate: 96-well microplate (product of NUNC);

e. ELISA antibody sensitization solution: PBS (pH 7.4);

f. ELISA buffer: PBS (pH 7.4) containing 1% bovine serum albumin and 0.1% Tween® 20 (Polysorbate 20);

g. Vector ABC kit (Mouse): product of Funakoshi Co., Ltd., Cat No.PK-6102;

h. DAB substrate kit (western blotting color development substrate): product of Funakoshi Co., Ltd., Cat No.SK-4100;

i. anti-human adiponectin monoclonal antibody (hu Acrp30-MoAb): product of Fujisawa Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., BD Transduction Laboratories, product code: A12820;

j. goat anti-human adiponectin polyclonal antibody (Goat α human Acrp30 antibody): product of Cosmo Bio Co., Ltd., GT, Cat No. 421065;

k. goat anti-mouse IgG HRP-labeled antibody: Cosmo Bio Co., Ltd., product of Capple;

l. ELISA wash liquid: PBS containing 0.05% Tween® 20;

m. ELISA buffer 2: PBS containing 1% BSA and 0.05% Tween® 20;

n. goat anti-human albumin polyclonal HRP-labeled antibody (HRP-Gt anti-HSA antibody): product of PARIS; and

o. HRP-Avidin: product of PIERCE.

Please replace the paragraphs beginning on page 33, line 7, with the following replacement paragraph:

2) Estimation of molecular weight through intramolecular crosslinking

Each of the adiponectin-multimer separated and purified products obtained in Example 3 was diluted with 100mM phosphate buffer (pH 8.0) to about 5 to about 10 μg/mL. A crosslinking agent, bis(sulfosuccinimidyl)suberate (trade name BS^3: product of PIERCE), was diluted with purified water to 20 mg/mL. Equal amounts of the diluted product and the diluted crosslinking agent were mixed with each other and then left to stand for 30 minutes at room temperature. Subsequently, the same amount of 100mM Tris-HCl buffer (pH 8.0) was added to the mixture, and the resultant mixture was left to stand for 15 minutes at room temperature. The resultant liquid was subjected to SDS-PAGE (2 to 15%) under non-reducing conditions for separation, transferred to a PVDF membrane through semi-dry blotting, and then immunostained. Specifically, a transfer membrane was blocked with PBS containing 5% skim milk and 0.1% NaN_3, washed with PBS containing 0.1% Tween® 20, and then reacted with an anti-human adiponectin monoclonal antibody (hu Acrp30-MoAb) (1 μg/mL) for 1 hour at room temperature. The membrane was washed thoroughly with PBS containing 0.1% Tween® 20, and color was allowed to develop by use of a Vector ABC kit (Mouse) and a DAB substrate kit.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 34, line 20, with the following replacement paragraph:

Example 5 Western blotting analysis of adiponectin contained in human serum

Serum samples (0.2 μL) obtained from eight healthy subjects were subjected to PAGE (2 to 15%) for separation, transferred to PVDF membrane through semi-dry blotting, and then immunostained. Specifically, a transfer membrane was blocked with PBS (pH 7.4) containing 5% skim milk and 0.1% NaN_3, washed with PBS (pH 7.4) containing 0.1%

Tween® 20, and then reacted for 1 hour at room temperature with an anti-adiponectin monoclonal antibody (hu Acrp30-MoAb; Fujisawa Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd., BD Transduction Laboratories) (1 μg/mL). The membrane was washed thoroughly with PBS (pH 7.4) containing 0.1% Tween® 20, and color was allowed to develop by use of a Vector ABC kit (Mouse) and a DAB substrate kit (Funakoshi Co., Ltd.).

Please replace the Abstract with the substitute Abstract provided on a separate page attached to this Amendment.